The field formations have been alerted about this *modus operandi* and intelligence is being targetted against such smuggling and close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling.

(d) Contraband gold, weighing approximately 336 kgs. and valued at Rs. 16.25 crores (provisional) has been seized by DRI, Customs and other agencies during January, 1992.

Seizure of gold bars at Bombay

855. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1.832 gold bars weighing 213.72 kilograms and valued at Rs. 10.57 crores were seized by air intelligence unit of the Bombay Customs on 14th January, 1992 from a Gulf Air flight;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the circumstances leading to the seizure; and

(c) what are the details of persons brought to book in connection therewith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) On 13[01|1992, the officers of Sahar Airport Customs, Bombay acting on information, intercepted one circular wheel like iron structure weighing 575 kgs. which had arrived from Sharjah by Gulf Air and was described as forged carbon blind steel flange in the Airway Bill for delivery to a party in Bangalore. Preliminary inquiries indicate that the import was under a fictitious name and address and have not thrown any light about the persons involved. The steel flange was cut and this resulted in recovery and seizure of 1832 gold bars weighing 213.72 kgs approximately and valued at Rs. 10.58 crores approximately.

Disbursement targets for farmers fixed by NABARD in Orissa

856. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development have been fixing a disbursement target for farmers in Orissa;

(b) if so, what were the targets and actual disbursement during the last three years;

(c) what are the details of rural development activities undertaken by the NABARD's Regional Office at Bhubaneshwar; and

(d) what are the details of State level! district level committee constituted for development of industries in rural aseas of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DAL-BIR SINGH): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural development (NABARD): does not fix the target for disbursement by banks to the farmers for any State. However, the target and achievement of refinance provided by NABARD to the banks under the schematic lending, including non-farm activities, in the State of Orissa for the last three years were as under:—

(Rs. in Crores).

Year (April-March)	Target	Achievement
1988-89 * . .	51·80	38·92
1989-90 . . .	57·16	47·62
1990-91 . . .	43·50	39·46

*pertains to the period July 1988 to March 1989)

(c) The Regional Office of NABARD at Bhubaneshwar sanctions the schemes for activities relating to agriculture and rural development and also releases the refinance to the eligible banks for the same. It has also prepared Potential Linked Credit plans (PLPS) for agriculture

and rural development for all the districts of Orissa based on the potential available and infrastructure development. These plans have reflected the local needs and potentials .ind linkage with development agencies.

(d) NABARD has set up Coordination Committee at State level comprising resentatives of NABARD, RBI, IDBI, State Lead Banks, KVIC KVIB and State Government for dealing with various issues relating to the promotion and development of non-farm sector. NA-BARD's representative also attends meeting of District Consultative Committee (DCC), District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and Standing Committee of DCC, where the progress in financing of cottage, tiny and village industries and small scale industries are reviewed.

Collection under Foreign Remittance Amnesty Scheme

857. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount collected under the Foreign Remittances Amnesty Scheme;

(b) what was the amount remitted by NRIs directly in their banks accounts in Ind"'a during the period from 1st July, 1990 to 31st January, 1991 and from 1st July, 1991 to 31st January, 1992; and

(c) what corrective action is proposed to be taken to ensure large remittances in case these have been less?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) As per report dated 27-2-1992, an amount of US $ 819.710 million (Rs. 2131.75 crores) has been collected under Foreign Exchange Remittances Scheme.

(b) Such data is not compiled by Reserve Bank of India.

(c) Question does not arise as no specific target was laid for remittances under the Remittances in Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme, 1991.

Evasion of customs duty by M/s. P.J. Pipes and Vessels (P) Ltd.

858. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question, 113 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd january, 1991 and state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the investigation conducted by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence against M/s. P.J. Pipes and Vessels (P) Limited;

(b) whether investigations have been completed; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the amount involved in the transaction and the loss suffered' by Government; and

(d) what action Government have taken or propose to take against the firm and the officials involved in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d) The investigations in the case have been completed. A show cause notice was issued on 25-4-1991 and the case was adjudicated by the Collector of Customs, Bombay, Vide his order dated 26-11-1991 wherein he has confirmed the demand for customs duty of Rs. 7,18,95,049. The seized goods have been confiscated but allowed to be redeemed on payment of fine of Rs. 10 lakhs. The following penalties have also been imposed on the Firm and the persons concerned:—■

1. M/s. P. J. Pipes & Vessels (P) Ltd.	Rs. 2.5 lakhs
2. Mr. B.J. Vohra, Chairman & Managing Director . . .	Rs. 7.5 lakhs
3. Mr. M. V. Ramarao, Director	Rs. 2.5 lakhs
4. Mr. M. C. Punjawani, Chartered Engineer	Rs. 1 laksh